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### **Sen. Hardiman: Gov. Granholm's veto message based on flawed reasoning**

**Lansing** — Gov. Granholm's veto of a bill that tried to increase parental involvement in situations where a minor is seeking an abortion was based on flawed reasoning and was offensive to its supporters, said Sen. Bill Hardiman, R-Kentwood.

"To say, as the governor did, that the 'bill would shield child abusers' clearly misstates the intent and actual language of the bill," Hardiman said. "House Bill 4478 — which Governor Granholm vetoed late Friday afternoon — doesn't touch existing law protecting minors from sexual abuse. To say otherwise is wrong. It's a personal attack on those who don't share her views on abortion when she said the bill harbors child abusers. It's one thing to oppose legislation on principle, but another to assign the worst motives to proponents while ignoring the actual language of the bill."

HB 4478, which Hardiman's Families and Human Services Committee recommended to the full Senate, standardized the questions used by judges in evaluating whether a parental-notification waiver should be granted. All judges would have been required to consider patterns of 'neglect, hostility or abuse' in deciding whether to grant waivers of parental notification. It also would prevent a minor seeking an abortion from judge-shopping, or filing more than one petition with the same court, to get an abortion without involving her parents in the decision.

Despite Granholm's veto message that HB 4478 puts minors at risk by keeping cases of sexual abuse secret, Michigan law already provides strong protection against such terrible crimes. In fact, HB 4478 allows a minor seeking an abortion to request another parental-consent waiver hearing if there is an "unanticipated change in the circumstances of her pregnancy or family situation," something not provided for now in law.

Hardiman said the bill would have helped protect families and parental rights.

"Already minors need parental approval when getting tattooed or their ears pierced," Hardiman said. "This legislation sets standards for judges about when parents should be involved in such a crucial decision."

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